

Berkeley's PATHS

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. BPWA hopes to accomplish this goal through volunteer-led path walks, identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network, and eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Spring 2003 Vol. 6 No. 1

Oakland's Secret Walkways: March 20th

You've always known there were a few stairways in Oakland, but did you know there are over 200 walkways? Come find out about all those secret walks of Oakland, March 20th when Jason Patton presents *Walk Oakland! Map & Guide*. Learn how that city is maintaining their historic footpaths, and how the pathways fit in to Oakland's Pedestrian Master Plan and harmonize with multimodal transportation advocacy.

Come by to listen and pick up the map and guide of walkways, neighborhoods, and landmarks.

Jason Patton is the community organizer for the Oakland Pedestrian

Safety Project in Oakland. He was the editor of the City's *Pedestrian Master Plan* and project manager for the *Walk Oakland! Map & Guide* which had him surveying Oakland's 200+ walkways. He is a Doctoral Candidate in Science and Technology Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His dissertation examines pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit advocacy for pluralizing city streets to promote multiple transportation modes.

Stairs for Glendale Path?

City funds have been used for minor path repairs, now we would like to see major improvements in the pathway network. By relying on the City's technical engineering skills, and building relatively short sets of stairs at the tops and bottoms of very steep path rights-of-ways, it can economically increase our path network. We want 2003 to be the beginning of these kinds of improvements, and we want to start with one of a threesome, Glendale Path (#84). Subsequent years we will address its partner paths.

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Meetings South Berkeley Library

- 7-9 pm** **1901 Russell at MLK**
(unless otherwise noted)
- Mar. 20** **General Meeting**
Oakland's 200+ Walkways
by Jason Patton
- April 17** **Board Retreat**
6 O'clock Potluck, 7-9 meeting
Jacque's house
- May 15** **Board**
- Sept. 18** **Annual Meeting**
AT THE HILLSIDE CLUB

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

- April 12** Another View of Northside Paths
Alan Kaplan 526-7509
Meet at Rose Garden on Euclid
- May 3** Creek Mouths in the East Shore
State Park
Susan Schwartz 848-9358
Meet at Sea Breeze at Frontage Road and University Ave.
- June 7** Boundary Walk
Paul Grunland 526-8001
Meet at Reservoir, Grizzly Peak and Spruce
- July 12** More Unimproved Paths
Charlie Bowen 540-7223
Meet at Arcade Avenue and Fairlawn Drive



The map of Oakland shows elevation grade, bike routes, stairways and paths. It also lists historical landmarks such as Francis Marion "Borax" Smith's estate where the founder of the Key Route electric train had horses, and extensive rose gardens.

Glendale Path *continued*

The 3 segments of Glendale Path could be a vital escape route in an emergency, as well as a direct transportation and recreational pedestrian route to city parks, schools, bus stops, and Tilden. It is also part of the proposed Bay-to-Ridge Codornices Creek urban trail, which the City Council approved unanimously last year. And the Luk Milani *City of Berkeley Pathways Condition Survey* of 1993 placed it on the priority list for improvements.

For the bottom segment of Path #84, BPWA volunteers have done a survey and prepared a profile to help get the project underway as soon as possible. Concrete steps built by the City on approximately the bottom 30 and the top 90 feet would open this path to the public. Wood-tie steps

installed by volunteers would complete the more gently sloped middle portion.

Volunteer Work Will Be Crucial

We look forward to a collaborative effort with the City and volunteers on this exciting new phase of “*creating, preserving, and restoring public paths and walkways in Berkeley*”—the mission of Berkeley Path Wanderers Association.



Only by walking:

*dew on toes, starflower glimpsed,
bird and worm's progress.*

—Virginia K. Anderson

Four Years of Success for City, Scouts & Citizens

Substantial improvements have been made in the safety and functionality of Berkeley's historic paths in the last four years. We are delighted with the city's excellent work in removing hazards on a number of paths. Likewise volunteers—principally Eagle Scout candidates and their troops—have improved the grading and installed simple wooden steps on many other paths. Here's the tally of all the good work accomplished.

City of Berkeley Public Works Department

Alta VistaPath
Billie Jean Walk
Crossways
Martinez Path
Tamalpais Path
Easter Way
South Crossways
Terrace Walk
Tunbridge Lane
Upton Lane

Boy Scout Troops with Financing by the Parks and Waterfront Mini-Grants

Anne Brower Path
Atlas Path
Keeler Path
Latham Path
Mosswood Lane
Oak Street Path
Sterling Path.

BPWA Work Parties, Neighbors and Others

Acacia Walk
Fred Herbert Path
Vistamont Trail
Columbia Path

New Paths Dedicated to the City

Geneva's Path
Scott Newhall Path

Light Clean Up Party Now Forming!

If you can't afford a lot of time but you would like to help BPWA, this is a great opportunity to volunteer just a few hours a month. The City cannot watch all the 130+ paths to keep them clear, so we are forming a group to perform light sweeping and pruning just one day per month.

Please call Eleanor at (510) 528-3739 (or email her at eleanorgibson@aol.com) and join in.

What Would You Like BPWA to Focus on?

Take part in our 3-minute member survey and let us know. Go to our website, then scroll until you see the daisy photograph on the left, and click on the link to take our brief survey about walks, meetings and other activities. We want to understand your preferences, and make BPWA more enjoyable for you. Thank you, and all the best.

Take the online survey, by going to www.berkeleypaths.org, or please write or call us.

Map Revisions Wanted

The pathway map is a popular resource and the map committee is once again anticipating the need to print more. Thank you to all who have already emailed comments about errors and omissions noticed in our 2nd Edition. We want to encourage more feedback so that the committee can review and analyze the information over the coming year and incorporate necessary changes in a Third Edition. Please send feedback by April 10th.

Please email comments to Karen at studio49@earthlink.net. Attaching a map with your markups is ideal. Or you can fax your comments to Karen, at 652-2449.



www.berkeleypaths.org

Yearly \$5.00 membership dues were due in January for the 2003 year. If you haven't yet, please send checks to:
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Berkeley, CA 94709.

